

A-2-E Naval War College Advanced Research Programs (35) (3920.1)

References:

- (a) [Awards for Professional Writing and Research, Annex A-1-A](#)
- (b) [Examination and Grading, Annex A-2-C](#)
- (c) [Advanced Research Council, Annex A-3-B](#)

This annex describes the Naval War College (NWC) Advanced Research Programs and delineates eligibility requirements.

1. Mission. The Advanced Research Department (ARD) provides opportunities for uniquely qualified, selected students to undertake a thesis project or a major campaign planning and regional assessment project in lieu of one of the normally required core courses. A thesis or campaign planning/regional assessment project completed through the ARD is part of the accredited NWC academic program for the Master of Arts Degree. Both are independent research projects carried out in the Center for Naval Warfare Studies (CNWS), under the general supervision of the Director, Advanced Research Department, and under the direct guidance of a faculty member who is cognizant of the specific field in which the research is conducted.

2. Organization. The ARD is responsible for all activities relating to the research mission. The Joint Military Operations (JMO) Department, National Security Decision Making (NSDM) Department, and Electives Program Office under the Dean of Academics are responsible for maintaining Program for Joint Education (PJE) electives.

3. Program Descriptions.

a. Advanced Research Program. The Advanced Research Program (ARP) provides the opportunity for qualified students to undertake a thesis research project. ARP students are reassigned from the regular course of instruction to the ARD for a specific trimester to complete a thesis-quality paper under the guidance of a faculty supervisor. Prospective students submit an application package and complete a research proposal briefing to the Advanced Research Council (ARC). Papers are expected to be suitable for publication and distribution throughout the Department of Defense (DoD) and other U.S. government agencies. Papers are eligible for consideration in the annual J. William Middendorf II Research Award and the Admiral Richard G. Colbert Prize Essay Award competitions (reference (a)). All ARP papers are evaluated by three faculty members and graded based on grading criteria contained in reference (b).

b. Global Advanced Research Program. The Global Advanced Research Program (GARP) provides the opportunity for qualified students to develop campaign plans and regional assessment papers for the College's annual Global Game. "Global" has been played annually for 19 years. Its recent focus has been alternative long-range strategic plans and the operational employment of proposed future forces within the context of those plans. Students work as a team in preparing campaign plans for Global. Additionally, each student prepares a research paper selected from a list of

associated regional questions directly related to the geographic area in each year's game. Papers are expected to be suitable for publication and distribution throughout the DoD and other U.S. government agencies. Papers are eligible for consideration in the annual J. William Middendorf II Research Award and the Admiral Richard G. Colbert Prize Essay Award competitions (reference (a)). All GARP campaign plans and papers are evaluated by three faculty members and graded based on grading criteria contained in reference (b).

c. Directed Research Elective. Students may pursue research interests as purely an elective course option or in preparation for conducting an ARP thesis. This option is separate and distinct from the PJE elective requirements and is coordinated through the Electives Program Office.

4. Eligibility. A student may pursue an advanced research project upon approval of an application to the President, Naval War College, acting on the advice and counsel of the ARC (ARC responsibilities are described in reference (c)). Council members consider ARP and GARP applications on an individual case-by-case basis for students within one of the following two categories:

a. Students with prior academic experience or PJE Phase I qualification. Students in this category have either:

(1) Served as a Naval War College resident or off-campus faculty member and taught, for at least one term, the course they wish to replace with an ARP or GARP project, or;

(2) Previously taken and satisfactorily passed the core curriculum, either in the resident, off-campus, or College of Continuing Education (CCE) programs, or;

(3) Already obtained PJE Phase I qualification, or;

(4) Either taught or satisfactorily passed courses with a similar course content, at the graduate level, at another academic institution.

b. Students without prior academic experience or PJE Phase I qualification. Students in this category must:

(1) Convince the ARC that the topic is of such importance that it is in the broader interests of the College or the service for the student to complete an independent research project in lieu of a trimester of the core curriculum, or;

(2) Convince the ARC that the student's unique career pattern and qualifications justify replacing a trimester of the core curriculum with an independent research project, and;

(3) Complete one of the following PJE electives corresponding to the JMO or NSDM course they wish to replace with an ARP or GARP project:

(a) ARP students take either the NSDM (E-545) or JMO (E-536) PJE elective, offered concurrently during the research trimester. An option for College of Naval Warfare (CNW) students

applying for a spring trimester ARP is the Joint Land Aerospace Sea Simulation (JLASS) elective (E-535), which may be substituted for the spring JMO PJE elective. The JLASS elective begins each winter trimester and spans both winter and spring trimesters (elective credit is given for each trimester).

(b) GARP students take the JLASS elective, which begins the winter trimester preceding the spring GARP trimester. This two-trimester elective provides broader instruction in Commander's Estimate development and Campaign Planning and is tailored to prepare a CNW student team for the annual JLASS war game played at Maxwell AFB, in Montgomery, Alabama. Students are finished with elective requirements after the war game and debrief and have the last five weeks available exclusively for research and writing.

5. Applications. All ARP candidates who wish to undertake a thesis in lieu of a core course must present for the approval of the ARC, a detailed proposal that explains fully the scope and the research questions involved in the proposed project. Student information and an ARP application are at [addendum A2Ea](#) and [addendum A2Eb](#). Students applying for a Global ARP submit a separate application ([addendum A2Ec](#)) and are also approved by the ARC. GARP group efforts and individual papers are assigned at the beginning of the trimester.

6. Academic Advisors. All ARP and GARP research projects have NWC faculty members assigned as academic advisors. Guidelines and information principally for ARP faculty advisors are located at [addendum A2Ed](#). Each ARP advisor reviews the student's research proposal before it is presented to the ARC and serves as a mentor throughout the student's research trimester. Faculty members who have agreed to act as research advisors will also act as consultants to the ARC, attend their student's presentation to the ARC, and provide, in their best academic judgment, evaluations on the merits of the project proposal and on the ability of the student to satisfactorily complete it. Most importantly, academic advisors are expected to be active mentors throughout the trimester; to assist students in refining the purpose and scope of their projects, suggest additional reading or research, provide feedback on draft papers, and in the case of group projects, assign individual responsibilities on an equitable basis. All advisors will evaluate their student's final product (as one of three evaluators) and submit a written critique and final grade to the ARD at the end of the trimester.

STUDENT INFORMATION
ON
ADVANCED RESEARCH PROGRAM APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

This addendum provides a detailed overview of application requirements, the approval process for research proposals, and the ARP trimester.

1. Forms and Eligibility. Forms and eligibility requirements concerning application for a Naval War College (NWC) Advanced Research Program (ARP) are in this annex.
2. ARP Application. The ARP application is a package of information about you and your research proposal. Completing the ARP application is the first step in a rigorous selection and approval process designed to reasonably ensure prospective ARP students have relevant, focused topics and are sufficiently prepared for the academic demands of a 12-week research project. Unlike other writing requirements within the core curriculum that allow time for thesis statement and bibliographical development during the trimester, the ARP requires students to complete a significant amount of preliminary research before the trimester begins. In assembling your application package, ensure you highlight the following:
 - a. Project Title. A clear, self-explanatory title.
 - b. Thesis Statement or Research Question. In a single sentence or question, state the central point of your research proposal.
 - c. Rationale. Clearly and succinctly explain the importance of conducting the research. What is your topic's relevance? What audience are you writing to and what good will it do them? Tell the Advanced Research Council (ARC) how it passes the "so what" test.
 - d. Hypotheses. Where will your paper take the reader? What are your preliminary conclusions?
 - e. List of Anticipated Sources or Bibliographical References. This section defines the potential scope of your work and lays the foundation for your research project. It shows the extent you have researched current literature (to avoid re-discovering what may have already been discovered) and places your proposal in context to existing documents. You should conclude this section by specifying how your research effort will expand the boundary of knowledge defined by current literature.
 - f. Sentence-Style Outline of the Entire Paper. This section should answer the "Where are you going with this?" question. It conveys the extent of your overall organization and level of preparedness of your research proposal.
 - g. Proposed Methodology. This answers the "How are you going to get there?" question. How do you intend to complete your research? Can it be accomplished within the available time and resources? This section should include enough information to let the ARC know exactly what you are

trying to do and how you intend to do it. You should provide an explanation of why the proposed methodology will help satisfy the needs of your research report and what difficulties you anticipate in completing the research.

h. Tentative Milestone Dates for your Project. When will you complete the research phase? Are you traveling during the trimester? (If so, specify when and where.) How much time have you allocated for writing? When will you begin forwarding drafts of your paper to your advisor?

i. Travel requirements. What are your travel requirements? If they exceed \$1000, explain what outside sources are providing additional financial support.

j. Security Classification of Your Project. Obtaining a higher security clearance (if required) during your student tour at the Naval War College (NWC) is not feasible.

3. Major Milestones.

a. ARP Applicants:

(1) Submit a complete ARP application package to the Advanced Research Department (ARD).

(2) Brief the research proposal to the ARC.

(3) Begin in-depth research and writing at the beginning of the trimester.

(4) Present a midterm brief on your research project to a review team consisting of the ARD Director, your faculty advisor, and a third NWC faculty member.

(5) Submit a final paper for evaluation approximately one week prior to the trimester's end.

b. GARP Applicants:

(1) Submit a GARP application package to ARD.

(2) The ARC will approve GARP applicants without individual student briefs.

(3) Begin GARP orientation briefings and projects at the beginning of the trimester.

(4) Submit final projects and individual papers for evaluation approximately one week prior to the trimester's end.

4. Faculty Advisors. All ARP students must have a NWC faculty member as an advisor. Selecting an advisor with direct experience in your research area and one that has sufficient time to advise you throughout the ARP trimester (including the application/briefing process) is crucial to maximizing your research efforts. The end-product and abbreviated timeline of an ARP trimester – a thesis-quality paper in 12 weeks – requires a substantial level of research and preparation at the very beginning of the

process and a concentrated effort throughout the trimester. Selecting an academic advisor with the time and experience to guide you through the project will make it a more efficient process (see “Guidelines for Advanced Research Advisors” at [addendum A2Ed](#) in this annex). GARP students will have two faculty members that serve as advisors for both group and individual projects.

5. Preparing the Research Proposal. Consider each of these recommendations as you prepare your proposal:

a. Develop a research project you can complete in 12 weeks. Count on the fact that the timeline you envision will take longer to complete when put into action. Beyond the obvious research and writing requirements, remember to allow time for all elective requirements and travel.

b. Select a topic that has the potential for you to make an original contribution to the field you are studying. Place your research question within the context of current available literature. Review all relevant background literature. If your proposal concerns an area that has been written on extensively, you will have to make it clear to the ARC how your research will extend the boundaries of knowledge in that field.

c. Develop a research methodology that is feasible and realistic. Keep in mind limitations of time, travel and financial resources

6. Application Package Due Dates. ARP advertisements and due dates are distributed during the latter half of each trimester. Application packages are due two weeks before beginning the ARP trimester. Students will brief their proposal approximately one week later to the ARC.

7. The ARC. The ARC is an advisory board tasked with reviewing research proposals and recommending to the President, NWC all projects for his final approval. Membership includes the Dean, Center for Naval Warfare Studies, the Dean of Academics, the Director of the ARD, and one “member-at-large” from Code 1 and Code 3, designated by the respective Deans. The ARC will convene approximately one week after the application deadline to consider all ARP proposals and GARP applications.

8. Your Brief to the ARC. The ARC brief is designed to “sell” your project as a credible and relevant research effort and one worthy of pursuit in lieu of participating in the core curriculum. ARC members expect you to convey your thesis statement, the rationale for doing the research, and how you intend to develop your paper. Briefing style is the student’s choice, but you must articulate a clear research focus and well-designed research plan. When preparing your presentation for the ARC, plan for the following:

a. ARC briefings are scheduled in one-hour increments. Tailor your brief to last approximately 20 minutes and be prepared for an additional 20 minutes of questions and answers. A computer setup for a Power Point presentation is available upon request.

b. Clearly summarize the highlights of your written application. Your proposal has to be approved by the ARC, which means you and your advisor will have to present/attend a subsequent ARC briefing, if substantial modifications were recommended by the ARC during the initial presentation.

c. Assume all members have a copy of your application and that they have read it. Have your advisor review your presentation.

9. ARP Proposal Acceptance. The ARC may accept your proposal at the initial brief, require you to revise your initial proposal and re-brief the ARC at a later date (same week), or reject your proposal. All ARP proposals must be accepted in final form by the ARC before you are accepted into the program. Students are notified verbally after completing a satisfactory ARC brief. After all briefs are complete, a summary of all accepted proposals is routed to the President, NWC for final approval.

10. The Directed Research Elective. If you are interested in advanced research but do not have the research prerequisites sufficiently developed, an optional approach is to complete a directed research elective the trimester before you intend to apply for the ARP project. By taking the directed elective, you apply the 20 percent of the core curriculum trimester towards completing the preliminary research for your ARP project, one-on-one with a faculty advisor, rather than completing a regular seminar-style elective with other students. Completing the directed research elective is an effective way to prepare for an ARP trimester even if you have the requisite material from another assignment or academic pursuit, as it establishes coordination with a faculty advisor early-on and familiarizes you with research facilities available at the NWC. Should you change your mind about pursuing an ARP project, there is no follow-on ARP requirement for students beyond completing the directed research elective.

11. Additional Assistance. If you are looking for a research project area, or require additional funding to undertake your proposal, we have additional information on recommended research topics and outside funding from other research organizations.

12. A Final Note. Place all this work and rigorous review in a positive context. The ARD and members of the ARC require this level of preparation to assist in your success. The principal concerns are that you have a relevant topic, are adequately prepared for the academic demands, and that you have a reasonable chance of completing your project on time.

Addendum A2Eb

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROGRAM
STUDENT APPLICATION

Trimester: _____ Year: _____ ARD Control Number: _____
(Fall - Winter - Spring) (Office use only)

1. Name: _____
(Last) (First) (MI) (Rank) (Service) (JR or SR Class)

2. Designator/MOS: _____

3. Title of Proposed Project: _____

4. Application is for: ☐ Individual Project ☐ Group Project
(Each member must submit an application)

5. Are you PJE Phase I Qualified: ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YES, please indicate when and where you obtained Phase I credit:

6. By the time you begin the ARP trimester, will you have completed a directed elective pertaining to this project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Preliminary Project Liaison/Points of Contact:

8. Experience/Background: (List all significant duty assignments for the past six years, beginning with your most recent tour.)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Nature of Duties</u>
--------------	---------------------	------------------	-------------------------

9. Financial Requirements (for travel/per diem): (List additional sources if total exceeds \$1000/student)

a. Travel: \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

b. Per Diem: \$_____

c. Additional financial resources (if needed):

10. Travel Requirements:

<u># of Days</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Reason</u>
------------------	-----------------	---------------

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

11. Education: (List all military and civilian schools attended, major and degree awarded, most recent first.)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Degree</u>
--------------	--------------------	--------------	---------------

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

12. Academic/Scientific Honors and/or Professional Society Memberships:

13. Record of Authorship/Publishing:

14. Applicant Information:

a. Home Address:

(Street address, including apt. number)

(City - State - Zip Code)

b. Phone:

15. Required attachments:

a. ARP Proposal (Follow application format.)

b. Writing sample (An essay or paper from a prior NWC trimester is preferred.)

16. In submitting this request, I understand that if approved, I will be administratively assigned to the Advanced Research Program for the entire trimester in lieu of participating in the core curriculum. I understand that I am still required to attend all Naval War College special events (guest speakers, evening events) to the same extent as other students remaining in the core curriculum. I will complete an elective course (specifically the Program for Joint Education (PJE) elective if the ARP project coincides with the Joint Military Operations (JMO) or National Strategy Decision Making (NSDM) trimesters). As an ARP student, I am obligated to complete a substantial research project of professional quality, in final smooth form and in the time allotted.

(Signature of Applicant)

17. Faculty Advisor(s): By signing as an advisor for an ARP project, you are agreeing to offer guidance to the student throughout the trimester, attend the midterm presentation, and review the final product, providing written comments and a grade to the Program Director. Additional information on the scope of requirements as an ARP advisor can be found in this annex and the student's ARP application package. (This application should be completed by the student, prior to obtaining the advisor's signature.)

Name

Department

Signature

GLOBAL ADVANCED RESEARCH PROGRAM
STUDENT APPLICATION

Trimester: _____ Year: _____ ARD Control Number: _____
(Winter - Spring) (Office use only)

1. Name: _____
(Last) (First) (MI) (Rank) (Service) (JR or SR Class)

2. Designator/MOS: _____

3. Are you PJE Phase I Qualified: ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YES, please indicate when and where you obtained Phase I credit:

4. By the time you begin the GARP trimester, will you have completed a directed elective pertaining to this project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Experience/Background: (List all significant duty assignments for the past six years, beginning with your most recent tour.)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Nature of Duties</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

6. Education: (List all military and civilian schools attended, major and degree awarded, most recent first.)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Degree</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

7. Academic/Scientific Honors and/or Professional Society Memberships:

8. Record of Authorship/Publishing:

9. Applicant Information:

a. Home Address:

(Street address, including apt. number)

(City - State - Zip Code)

b. Phone:

10. Required attachment: a writing sample (An essay or paper from a prior NWC trimester is preferred.)

11. In submitting this request, I understand that if approved, I will be administratively assigned to the Advanced Research Department for the entire trimester in lieu of participating in the core curriculum. I understand that I am still required to attend all Naval War College special events (guest speakers, evening events), to the same extent as other students remaining in the core curriculum. I will complete the Joint Land Aerospace Simulation (JLASS Elective (E-535)), a two-trimester elective that begins in the winter trimester. As a GARP student, I am obligated to complete all group projects and an individual written report of professional quality, in a final smooth form and in the time allotted.

(Signature of Applicant)

GUIDELINES FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH ADVISORS

1. Program Objectives. The Advanced Research Program (ARP) provides a trimester of faculty-monitored research for student thesis projects in relevant strategic or operational-level issues outside the core curriculum. Student eligibility and preparatory requirements are contained in NWCINST 5400.1 series, Annex A-2-E. Preparatory research projects may be pursued as a Directed Research Elective through the Electives Program Office. (Directed Research Electives not conducted as precursors to an ARP are not addressed here.) This addendum addresses some considerations for a faculty member signing on as an advisor for a research project.

2. The Faculty Advisor's Role. Your student should have a significant amount of research completed and have a well-defined research question before applying for an ARP. Students may bring this material from outside activities or build the foundation as a Directed Research Elective. Your role is to help students transform their ideas into a well-designed and focused research project, establish clearly-defined goals, mentor their research efforts throughout the trimester and provide a written critique and final grade (as one of three graders for an ARP project or a single grade for a research elective) at the trimester's end.

3. A Trimester's Outline. This is a brief overview of events leading up to and during a typical trimester:

a. For a Directed Research Elective, each student prepares a one-page outline of his/her proposal, signed by you, the Advanced Research Department, and the Electives Program Office. The outline specifies the research question, an outline of the paper, and the end product. Students need to verify current content requirements with the Electives Office.

b. For an Advanced Research Project, preparation begins before the start of the research trimester and your involvement continues throughout.

(1) Before the trimester begins:

(a) Review and sign your student's ARP application package and review the briefing before it is presented to the Advanced Research Council.

(b) Attend all ARC briefings (the initial brief and any re-briefings on modified proposals, if necessary) with your student and be prepared to discuss your impressions of the research proposal with the ARC members.

(2) During the trimester:

(a) Mentor your student's research efforts and review drafts as the paper develops.

(b) Attend your student's midterm presentation.

(c) At trimester's end, evaluate the final paper and submit a critique and grade (as one of three graders) on your student's research project.

4. Final Considerations. As a faculty advisor, your greatest opportunity to influence the course of your student's efforts is at the project's inception. Be proactive in helping shape the course of inquiry; what needs to be read, who needs to be interviewed, what needs to be discovered, and what is to be achieved. Each student is ultimately responsible for the finished product, but your involvement will directly enhance the course and quality of the project.